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ROMANIAN COLLABORATION WITH THE GERMANS C2.

During the first week in November 1944, a German Official is said to have stated that, Boria Sima, accompanied by Colonel Steinhilber, had arrived 2 November by Army High Command plane at the command post of the Army Group. He had been introduced to the Chief of General Staff, General von Grolman and then to the Commander-in-Chief of the Army Group, Colonel General Friessner who welcomed him heartily.

During the conversations which followed, General von Grolman had laid stress on the importance of the Rumanian area to the present front of the Army Group. He had described the experiences up to the present with the Rumanian troops fighting on the Russian side and had expressed the hope that Boria Sima's visit and the projected exchange of ideas would further future close collaboration.

In this respect Boria Sima is said to have emphasized the need for a stronger concentration of fighting in various sectors of the Rumanian area and to have advocated the creation, if possible, of a central command which would insure the coordination of individual operations. He declared that under present conditions, army groups, defense positions, SS groups and the German Volksgruppen were operating in Rumania without coordination of activity and that this lack of coordination would destroy the desired effectiveness of operations and place the result in doubt. Sima stated that individual operations were, moreover, unsuitable by the mere fact that they were followed by Russian reprisals which decreased the participating district's willingness to cooperate and seriously hindered the organization of an all-inclusive resistance movement. This could be avoided, Sima added, by the creation of a military center, associated with and similar to the already existing political center for Rumania. General von Grolman agreed to uphold this point of view.

Further conferences in the presence of the Army Group expert, considered the basic questions to be pursued for military and propagandist collaboration. In the field of propaganda an effort

* Iron Guard Leader
** Unidentified
*** People's Army

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would be made to effect a mutual exchange of material relating to the political and military sectors. In the future the Army Group would route all agent and prisoner information of interest to Horia Sima through Professor Boldanu, the Rumanian advisor with the Army Group Propaganda Department, and from there to the office of Minister Altenburg and would, moreover, drop leaflets prepared by the Foreign Office, for example, by the office of Minister Altenburg.

It was generally agreed that there existed a need for a Rumanian newspaper to receive large-scale distribution throughout the Rumanian area, and that the dropping of pamphlets descriptive of Russian atrocities would be useful.

Concerning military collaboration, the recruiting of volunteers from the 7,000 Rumanian prisoners made to date, was discussed. The selection was not to be made by the Germans but by some special trusted men representing Horia Sima. The escort and transport by rail would be accomplished by Army Group South. As a rule, transport would run through the SS replacement command in Vienna to the Doellersheim camp. Exceptions would be made in the case of Rumanian prisoners who volunteered for scouting action at the front, for sabotage and for the reporting of information. These men would remain at the disposal of the Army Group.

Horia Sima drew attention to the 3,000 Rumanian prisoners in Hungarian camps. These prisoners were to be seized and the permission of the Hungarians to be procured through the legation or the Foreign Office. It was expected that the Hungarians would grant this permission.

Horia Sima reported further on the information he had received of efforts that had been made by the Commander-in-Chief of the 4th Rumanian Army, General Avramescu, to establish contact with national Rumanian circles in Germany. These feelers, which General Avramescu had put out previously to his own defense delegates, as well as the information received by Horia Sima from a woman legionnaire, had been confirmed through Lieutenant Prince Sturdza, son-in-law and administrative officer of General Avramescu. The Commander-in-Chief of the Army Group had given orders that all possible measures should be taken to support General Avramescu in this projected undertaking, and his attempts to get through to the German lines with his family on 2 November 1944. Corresponding preparations were being made. The meeting

• German Minister in Vienna

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between Maria Sima and Prince Stircea, the son of the Romanian Foreign Minister, had been fixed for 4 November 1944.

The results of Maria Sima's visit were said to have exceeded expectations. The conversations had gone beyond the previously planned compass, touched upon questions of mutual interest and had been valuable for their stimulating effect on both sides. Following a meal with the Chief of the General Staff, Maria Sima had been taken by car to inspect various Hungarian prisoner of war camps in the Lake Balaton area. He was to fly back to Vienna 4 November 1944.

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